

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 16 are amended and claims 7 and 17 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. The amendment to claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 7 and the amendment to claim 16 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 17. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 7, 8, and 17 are allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7 and claim 16 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,932,518 to Greenlaw. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Greenlaw for at least the same reasons as claim 7 is patentable. Also, claims 3, 4, and 15, which depend from claim 1, are patentable over Greenlaw for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is patentable over Greenlaw as well as for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Greenlaw as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,705,769 to Brezina et al. (Brezina). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over the alleged combination of Greenlaw and Brezina for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is patentable as well as for the additional features recited therein. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Greenlaw as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,792,171 to Hargis et al. (Hargis). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to include allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claims 6 and 9-14, which depend from claim 1, are patentable over the alleged combination of Greenlaw and Hargis for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is patentable as well as for the additional features recited therein. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Greenlaw in view of Brezina. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 16 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Accordingly, claim 16 is patentable over the alleged combination of Greenlaw and Brezina for at least the same reasons as claim 17 is patentable. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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